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On Friday, September 14, 1990, ATSDR formally concluded that the conditions at the New Vernon Road and White Bridge Road Sites presented an imminent threat to the residents living on those Sites. ATSDR recommended that the exposure of the residents to asbestos contamination be terminated. In addition, ATSDR recommended that activities which generate dust be terminated and warning signs specifying the exposure risk be posted at the Sites.

With respect to your constituents' statements regarding community relations, EPA recognized the sensitivity of this issue and responded to these recommendations in a responsible manner. EPA and ATSDR had several face-to-face meetings with the two families which were directly impacted by the recommendations. The Town Administrator, Mayor, Police Department and Emergency Response personnel were advised of ATSDR's conclusions before warning signs were posted. In addition, a meeting was held with the local officials, the general public and the press to apprise them of these developments prior to EPA's implementation of any substantive action.

The Agency also hand-delivered a letter detailing the results of vacuum cleaner samples, along with other pertinent information to affected residences. The Schmidt home was one of those residences. EPA and ATSDR staff met with one of the Schmidts at their home and explained that the results of the vacuum cleaner sampling were at the low end of the risk range and that EPA intended to do additional confirmatory sampling.

In response to your constituents' comments regarding a permanent response action for these Sites, although EPA and ATSDR strongly recommended that the residents living on the White Bridge Road and New Vernon Road Site relocate, the residents elected not to do so. Consequently, removal actions were conducted at both Sites as temporary mitigative measures until a permanent solution can be determined. In terms of EPA's long-term strategy for these Sites, a comprehensive soil sampling program was also completed earlier this month. We expect results from this sampling effort by the end of this year. Based upon this data, EPA will evaluate remedial alternatives, and present its findings to the public before making a final decision with respect to appropriate response actions.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please let me know or have your staff contact Jeane Rosianski of the Office of External Programs at (212) 264-7834.

Sincerely,

Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
Regional Administrator

cc: Commissioner Judith A. Yaskin
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection

bcc: Rosemary Carroll
Executive & Congressional Communications
CCO

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